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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments see pages 2-4, filed 30 November 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-10 under 35 U.S.C §102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Lahtinen 6,148,200.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lahtinen 6,148,200.

Regarding **claims 1 and 7**, Lahtinen discloses a method for assigning (and searching) a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor location Register (physical VLR see figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 1-5), the mobile subscriber roaming number (MSRN, see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 13-20) is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules (LVLR1 or LVLR2, see fig. 3, col. 3, lines 3-5), characterized in that: said mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number (nn, the number of the LVLR, see col. 3, lines 13-20,

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44-55), and said Visitor Location Register module number is utilized to directly determine (and find) the correspondence relationship between said assigned mobile subscriber roaming number (MSRN, see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 13-20) and the Visitor Location Register module (LVLR1 or LVLR2, see fig. 3, col. 3, lines 3-5) in said Visitor Location Register (physical VLR see figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 1-5) that manages said mobile subscriber roaming number (nn represents an additional 1 or 2 digits used to determine the number of the LVLR within the physical VLRn, see col. 3, lines 13-29, 44-55).

Regarding **claim 2**, as applied to claim 1, Lahtinen further discloses said Visitor Location Register (physical VLR see figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 1-5) receives from a Home Location Register (HLR see fig. 3, col. 3, lines 13-20) a request to assign a roaming number (provide roaming number request, see fig. 1, col. 1, lines 52-56) for a mobile subscriber (MS, see fig. 3); said Visitor Location Register forwards the request to one of the Visitor Location Register modules (see col. 3, lines 20-29); said Visitor Location Register module records the information corresponding to said mobile subscriber and obtains its corresponding VLR sub-number (step 3, see col. 3, lines 52-58); said Visitor Location Register module generates a mobile subscriber roaming number (MSRN, step 5, see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 13-20), said mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a country code (NCC, see col. 3, line 40), the number of a Mobile Switching Center where said mobile subscriber is in (NDC, see col. 3, line 41), the module number of said Visitor Location Register module (VLRn, see col. 3, line 42), said VLR sub-number (nn, see col. 3 lines 54-55); said Visitor Location

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Register module returns said mobile subscriber roaming number to said Home Location Register (see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 40-54).

Regarding **claim 5**, as applied to claim 1, Lahtinen further discloses wherein the length of the module number of said Visitor Location Register module may be one bit or multiple bits (nn, col. 3, lines 54-55).

Regarding **claim 6**, as applied to claim 1, Lahtinen further discloses wherein the length of said mobile subscriber roaming number is not longer than 15 bits (nn, col. 3, lines 54-55).

Regarding **claim 8**, as applied to claim 7, Lahtinen further discloses the said method comprising the following steps: based on said mobile subscriber roaming number (MSRN, see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 13-20), a Visitor Mobile Switching Center (MSC, see fig. 2, col. 1, lines 43-48) initiates a query to the Visitor Location Register module corresponding to said mobile subscriber roaming number (step 8, see fig. 1, col. 4, lines 1-5); said Visitor Location Register module searches the information of corresponding mobile subscriber based on said mobile subscriber roaming number and returns it to said Visitor Mobile Switching Center (step 9, see fig. 1, col. 4, lines 1-6).

Regarding **claim 9**, as applied to claim 8, Lahtinen further discloses wherein the step of initiating a query further comprising: said Visitor Mobile Switching Center (MSC, see fig. 2, col. 1, lines 43-48) decomposes said mobile subscriber roaming number into a country code (NCC, see col. 3, line 40), a Mobile Switching Center number (NDC, see col. 3, line 41) and a Visitor Location Register module number (nn, the number of the

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LVLR, see col. 3, lines 13-20, 44-55) based on the assignment format of said mobile subscriber roaming number (see col. 3, lines 30-55); said Visitor Mobile Switching Center sends the query request to the Visitor Location Register module corresponded to said Visitor Location Register module number (see col. 2, lines 1-6, col. 3, lines 30-55).

Regarding **claim 10**, Lahtinen further discloses wherein said searching step further comprising: said Visitor Location Register module obtains the VLR sub-number (VLRn step 3, see col. 3, lines 52-58) in said mobile subscriber roaming number (MSRN, step 5, see col. 1, lines 59-67, col. 3, lines 13-20), and obtains the information of said mobile subscriber in the record of the mobile subscriber roaming number information table corresponded to said VLR sub-number (step 8, see col. 2, lines 1-7) and returns it to said Visitor Mobile Switching Center (step 8, see col. 2, lines 1-7); said Visitor Location Register module releases said VLR sub-number (see col. 2, lines 1-7, col. 3, lines 13-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Lahtinen 6,148,200** in view of **Applicant's admitted prior art**.

Regarding **claim 3**, as applied to claim 2, Lahtinen discloses the claimed

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invention. Lahtinen, however, does not explicitly disclose said recording step further comprising: said Visitor Location Register module records the information of said mobile subscriber in an idle record in a mobile subscriber roaming number information table, and obtains the VLR sub-number corresponding to said record.

Applicant's admitted prior art, however, discloses wherein said recording step further comprising: said Visitor Location Register module records the information of said mobile subscriber in an idle record in a mobile subscriber roaming number information table (MS information table and MSRN information table, see p.1, lines 23-28 and p.2, line 1, and p.3, lines 4-10), and obtains the VLR sub-number (record number of a MS information table, see tables in p.3 and p.2, lines 24-27) corresponding to said record.

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching in the Applicant's admitted prior art with Lahtinen for the benefit of routing a call from a gateway MSC to a visiting MSC.

Regarding **claim 4**, as applied to claim 1, Lahtinen discloses the claimed invention except characterized in that, said Visitor Location Register is a multi-module-clustered distributed real time database.

Applicant's admitted prior art, however, discloses wherein said Visitor Location Register is a multi-module-clustered distributed real time database (VLR is a real time database, see p.1, lines 22-24).

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It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify the combination of Lahtinen and the Applicant's admitted prior art for the benefit of routing a call from a gateway MSC to a visiting MSC.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Uchiyama et al (5,84,169) discloses a roaming mobile communication system and method.

Janhonen et al (6,023,618) discloses a method for improving charging criteria in a mobile telephone network.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olumide T. Ajibade-Akonai whose telephone number is 571-272-6496. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8.30p-5p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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